

STATEMENT -II***Steps taken to improve and modernise Telecommunication Service in Madhya Pradesh.***

Steps are being taken to improve and modernise Telecommunication service in Madhya Pradesh. Towards this end, the draft Eighth Plan (1992-97) proposals envisage addition of over 3 lakh lines and replacement of around one lakh lines mostly by electronic equipment during the Plan period in Madhya Pradesh which includes:-

- Achieve fully automatic network by March '1994 by replacing all manual exchanges.
- Replace life expired and worn out switches as and when they become life expired.
- Replace all strowger MAX-III exchanges by electronic exchanges (as part of the programme to provide national subscriber dialing to all exchanges)
- Provision of Subscriber Trunk Dialing facility to all exchanges.

[English]

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchange in Midnapore District

3050. SHRISATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up one automatic telephone exchange with STD facilities combining the existing Mecheda and Kolaghat telephone exchanges into one exchange with STD Midnapore District West circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

- (c) (i) It has already been planned to replace the existing Mecheda small Electro-mechanical exchange and Kolaghat Manual exchange by 176 lines and 200 lines Electronic Exchanges respectively during 1992-93.
- (ii) Installation work and upgradation of external plant in this regard has already been taken up.
- (iii) Reliable transmission media have been planned between Kolaghat-Mecheda-Kharagpur during 1992-93 to provide STD facilities.

[Translation]

Losses in ITDC Hotels

3051. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the condition of such of the ITDC Hotels which are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). ITDC presently owns and operates 25 hotels located at various places in the country. It is the endeavour of ITDC to